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SUBJECT: IAEA 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: SECRETARY'S UNGA STATEMENT CONCERNING MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS MEETS AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE.

BEGIN LOU. SUMMARY. US DEL DISTRIBUTED EXCERPT FROM SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONCERNING SUBJECT CENTERS TO ALL GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS AND CALLED FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF CONCEPT IN FINAL MEETING (SEPTEMBER 25) OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. UNGA STATEMENT STRENGTHENS PREVIOUS USG EFFORTS TO SPOTLIGHT IMPORTANCE REGIONAL CENTER CONCEPT REFLECTED IN STATEMENTS OF DG AND OTHER MEMBERS AND ELUCIDATED IN OPENING PLENARY STATEMENT OF US REP. AGENCY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION SECRETARY'S REMARKS. OTHER DELS APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO SECRETARY'S EXHORTATION EXPLORE REGIONAL CENTER CONCEPT. END SUMMARY. END LOU.

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1. US DEL DISTRIBUTED TO ALL GC DELEGATIONS EXCERPT

FROM SECRETARY'S UNGA ADDRESS PROPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS. THEREAFTER IN CLOSING STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, US REP CALLED ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S ADDRESS AND SPECIFICALLY NOTED EMPHASIS THAT SECRETARY PLACED ON REGIONAL CENTERS. HE ALSO REPEATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR AGENCY WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY, NOTED WITH APPRECIATION REPORT IN SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS OF GC BY MECKONI ON PROGRESS TO DATE, AND URGED MEMBERS TO SUPPORT WORK THROUGH ASSISTANCE IN CASH AND IN KIND TO PERMIT EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF THIS IMPORTANT MAJOR STUDY.

- 2. MR. MECKONI SEPTEMBER 23 BRIEFED USDEL ON STATUS OF AGENCY STUDY AND NEXT DAY MADE SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO INTERESTED CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS. MECKONI AND STAFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT OF PROJECT SET FORTH IN STATEMENTS OF SECRETARY AND US REP.
- 3. US REP SEAMANS IN 23 SEPTEMBER GC SPEECH STATED FOLLOWING CONCERNING REGIONAL CENTERS:
 "AN URGENT IAEA PROJECT, WHICH WE FIND HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO THE MEMBER STATES, IS THE AGENCY'S STUDY OF THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS TO PROVIDE THE MEANS OF MEETING ECONOMICALLY THE REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS OF GROUPS OF COUNTRIES CONSISTENT WITH NON-PROLIFERATION AND SAFEGUARDS REQUIREMENTS. THE UNITED STATES WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT WITH THE SERVICES OF EXPERTS AND BY OTHER MEANS. THIS STUDY SHOULD CONSIDER REALISTICALLY, INTER ALIA, THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FACTORS IN ORDER THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION MAY BE GIVEN TO THE FEASIBILITY OF THE MULTINATIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTER CONCEPT."
- 4. OPENING STATEMENT BY DG TO GC ON SEPTEMBER 22 INCLUDED FOLLOWING TWO REFERENCES TO CONCEPT:

A. "LONG-TERM PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN RELATION TO THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE IS A LOGICAL SEQUEL TO THE WORLD-WIDE GROWTH OF NUCLEAR POWER. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE MOST ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION HAVE NOW REACHED THE STAGE OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL IMPLEMENTATION, THIS IS NOT THE CASE FOR CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE SUCH AS FUEL REPROCESSING AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT. HENCE, IT IS PRUDENT THAT THE IAEA SHOULD EXAMINE SUCH POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AREAS.

"WITH THIS AIM IN MIND THE AGENCY HAS EMBARKED ON AN

EXTENSIVE STUDY OF REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS. THE ADVANTAGES OF SUCH CENTERS ARE OBVIOUS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY CAN COMBINE FUEL REPROCESSING, WASTE DISPOSAL AND A PACK OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS. CO-OPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES IN PROVIDING SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF EXPERTS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMES IS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FROM THE STUDY."

B. "APART FROM THE OBVIOUS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AD-VANTAGES WHICH MIGHT ACCRUE FROM AN INTERGRATED APPROACH TO FUEL CYCLE SERVICES, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT REGIONAL FACILITIES OPERATED BY THE STATES CONCERNED, OR OPER-ATED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS, COULD MAKE A MAJOR CON-TRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, INDEED, THIS IN-TEGRATED APPROACH WOULD MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF INDIVID-UAL PLANTS AT WHICH PLUTONIUM BECOMES AVAILABLE; ENSURE THAT EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ARE APPLIED TO PLUTONIUM SEPARATION AND STORAGE FACILITIES; AND REDUCE THE RISKS OF HAVING DANGEROUS NUCLEAR MATERIAL FALLING INTO UNAUTHORIZED HANDS THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE RECOGNIZING THE SOUNDNESS OF THIS CONCEPT AND NOTING THE ECONOMIC AND SAFETY ADVANTAGES OF REGIONAL CENTERS. WELCOMED THE AGENCY'S INITIATIVE AND URGED ALL PARTIES TO THE TREATY TO CO-OPERATE IN THE STUDY. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY HELP THE CAUSE OF NON-PROLIFERATION BUT ALSO THE SAFETY AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS TO WHICH I HAVE ALREADY REFERRED. MEANS SHOULD BE EXPLORED TO PLACE EXISTING FUEL CYCLE SERVICES AND THOSE NOW BEING ORDERED UNDER REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. AFTER ALL, THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT CIVIL REPROCESSING FACILITY IN EUROPE WAS THE RESULT OF A REGIONAL INITIATIVE. DELEGATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL HEAR A REPORT ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ON THE PROGRESS OF THE AGENCY'S STUDIES OF REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS."

5. OTHER DELEGATIONS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL ORIENTATION ECHOED DG AND US REP SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL
NUCLEAR FUEL CENTERS IN GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS.
UK WELCOMED AGENCY STUDY; SWEDEN, GDR, AND REPUBLIC
OF KOREA EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF AGENCY STUDY; USSR IN
LAUDING NPT REVCON ASSERTED NEED FOR AGENCY TO IMPLEMENT REVCON'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PURSUING REGIONAL
FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDIES; SOUTH AFRICA PERCEIVED
AGENCY ROLE IN RATIONALIZING FUEL CYCLE TO AVOID DISTORTED DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY OVER-DUPLICATION OF
REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES; AND

PHILIPPINES SUGGESTED FEASIBILITY STUDY OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR CENTER FOR ASIA AND FAR EAST, OFFERING PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER TO AGENCY. NETHERLANDS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR REGIONAL CENTERS OVER NATIONAL ONES, SUGGESTING AGENCY SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT IT SHOULD CONTINUE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH, NOTWITHSTANDING THE DANGERS, STRIVE TO ESTABLISH NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS ON A STRICLY NATIONAL BASIS.

6. COMMENT: OFFICIALS OF AGENCY AND OTHER
DELS ARE RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO SECRETARY'S
UNGA ADDRESS URGING THAT ALL STATES SUPPORT IAEA'S
WORK IN FIELD OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS.
MISSION WILL FOLLOW SUBJECT CLOSELY AND REPORT
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
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